



SPMAGTF-CR-CC

Commanding Officer's Statement on Substance Abuse



This SPMAGTF exists to fight and win our nation's battles. Anything that degrades our ability to accomplish this mission must be looked at as an enemy to be overcome – and substance abuse is one of those enemies.

Substance abuse takes many forms; indulgence in alcohol, use of illegal substances, or abuse and wrongful use of legally prescribed drugs. All forms rob us of too many Marines and Sailors every year through death, injury, and legal consequences. Additionally, units spend too much time picking up the pieces after incidents caused by harmful and often illegal use of drugs and alcohol. This time comes at the expense of quality training and proper preparations for combat.

We will combat this enemy on many fronts. Individuals are encouraged to seek assistance from their chain-of-command before alcohol or drug abuse threatens their lives, health and careers. Leaders will engage and educate their men and women to prevent them from taking the wrong path towards a damaged life and a ruined career. Treatment is available, but prevention is always the preferred course of action.

For the few who fail to see the wisdom in choosing not to use drugs, the SPMAGTF will execute a robust urinalysis program designed to catch those who can't maintain the discipline to live up to the Marine standard. Leaders will also be vigilant for those who choose to show up for duty impaired by alcohol, or are caught using alcohol off-duty.

Those who are caught will be held accountable, and use of illegal drugs will result in the individual being processed for administrative separation from the Corps.

I want every member of this SPMAGTF to understand that drug use or consumption of alcohol does not contribute to our mission success and only serves to place our Marines at risk. In particular, drug use -- whether illegal substances like marijuana, cocaine, and synthetic drugs like spice and bath salts, or the improper use of prescription medication like Percocet or codeine -- will simply not be tolerated.

Combating substance abuse will be addressed at all levels of the chain-of-command through active prevention, deterrence, accountability and treatment. We must not let substance abuse impact our ability to prepare and employ our Marines in combat.

Questions regarding substance abuse should be addressed to your chain of command or the SPMAGTF-CR-CC SACO, Sergeant Girard, at 318-345-5203 or abigail.girard@me.usmc.mil

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Commanding Officer